



Emergency Communications Committee Minutes

DATE: **Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016**

TIME: Meeting: 7 – 9 p.m.

LOCATION: Council Chambers. 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

<i>Member</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Jim Abraham, Co-Chair	W6EB	P
Dru Anderson, Secretary	KG6LAD	P
Bob Anderson	KC6ZWG	P
Andy Fawcett	KI6MAF	P
Jim Heintzelman	KD6Y	O
Ben H. L. Hu	KK6HH	P
Edwin R Jones, EC	W7WPO	P
Andrew Kirk	WB6CLS	P
Duncan MacMillan	KI6VMY	P
Scott Overstreet, Co-Chair	N6NXI	P
Sam Wood	K6MSR	P
<i>Council/Staff</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Gary Waldeck, Council Liaison	K6AIR	O
<i>Associates</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Bill Gibbons, associate	K6GH	P
Neil Katin, associate	AI6FI	P
Greg Olsen, associate	K6XM	P
Bob Rowe, associate	AF6LD	P

1. Roll Call: Co-chairs: Scott N6NXI/Jim W6EB called the meeting to order @ 7 p.m.
2. Minutes: Nov 3/Dec 1 minutes. Approved, with suggested typo corrections. Dec moved by Scott, seconded by Ed. Approved with the Andersons abstaining since did not attend. November approved.
3. Public comments from the floor:
 - a. Bob KC6ZWG & Dru KG6LAD shared a memo they each had received from Senator Dianne Feinstein in response to their support for the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, which has been introduced to direct FCC to clarify that amateur radio stations may be installed regardless of any private land use restrictions. It is currently awaiting consideration by Senate Committee on Commerce, science, and Transportation.
 - b. Andy Fawcett KI6MAF suggested that the committee support acquisition in the EOC of a 220 radio he described that would be effective in being able to reach 3 of the county's packet station, however, not the one in the south county. Neil supported the idea, citing that potentially a second unit would free up the 440 for voice, thus make CERT ham operation easier with no signal conflict. The group supported the idea of Jim and Scott bringing up the equipment addition to City Manager Carl Cahill. The thought was to start with one at the EOC, evaluate the related antenna hookups, then later consider also for the ARK operation.

- c. There was a reminder to attend the Jan. 30th at 9 a.m. meeting of SPECS at El Camino Hospital. Program is available on www.specsnet.org as are renewals and profile updates.
- 4. Reports:
 - a. EC: ED W7WPO: Sought signups for the January SPECSnet coverage by LAH. Volunteers included Bob KC6ZWG; Ed, Jim W6EB, Duncan, and Andy WB6CLS. He also reported a discussion about the county disaster planning for the upcoming Super Bowl at Levi Stadium, Santa Clara, on Feb. 7. He said the EC Council now meetings quarterly at the Sheriff headquarters.
 - b. LAH City Council Report: Gary Waldeck, K6AIR: Did not attend. Deferred.
 - c. Roster Report: Duncan MacMillan K16VMY. Updated roster “in the mail.”
 - d. Member/Associate Report: Ray Egan W6FQY. Deferred to Feb. 2016.
- 5. Old Business:
 - a. ECC QRG (Quick Reference Guide): Sub-committee update, Neil AI6FI. Reported that the holiday season cut short time to meet, but that the subcommittee will resume activity soon.
 - b. LAH Antenna ordinance update, planning commission report: Jim W6EB. Jim reported that he anticipates the item will come back to the PC possibly in February. Discussion is around height adjustments and approval process, and holding tight on costs.
 - c. Update on Cell Tree modifications: Jim W6EB/Scott N6NXI. Said the cell tower item is due back to PC on Jan. 6 meeting. It involves refreshing the tree and rebuilding the antennas on the tree. Scott has reviewed. They did not have details on potential down time, and the contractor schedule.
 - d. Relative to the encouragement for people to more frequently monitor, actively use the repeater, Scott said so far, there is little activity that he has detected. He reinforced the idea of more actively monitoring. Dru KG6LAD suggested we again try the suggestion of aiming for an 8 a.m., noon, and 5 p.m. rendezvous time for those available, as we did in the past to some success. There was no action.
- 6. New Business:
 - a. Sub-committee for 2016 drill planning: Ed W7WPO said he would chair the planning and coordination of ECC participation with CERT and County drills, and would call in people as needed and available.
- 7. Tech Talk:
 - a. Safety & Operational Best Practices: Batteries and Battery Charges: Scott N6NXI/Jim W6EB. Scott and Jim led an interactive discussion on battery safety, storage, and the differentiation of use and safety among the lithium, AA cells. There was discussion of storage relative to temperature. If kept in freezer, they have to be thawed first. Best is to keep @40 degrees – so refrigerator likely better for more quick access if needed, as frozen batteries have limited capacity until thawed. Lithium batteries are less sensitive to cold. They also discussed the comparative shelf life of lithium v cell. Some of the problem areas of corrosion, fire hazard were discussed along with the warning to “don’t overcharge.” Once your unit is charged, unplug it.
- 8. Adjourn. On a motion by Scott N6NXI, seconded by Bob KC6ZWG, and with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Secretary Dru Anderson KG6LAD